



The Trumpet reviews the top five sports occurrences of the past decade

by Mark Walsh

In the past decade, the sports world has seen some of the most amazing feats that took over radio, television and the newspapers in every household. In 10 years of scandals, Cinderella stories and overall domination, these are the best moments of the decade.

NY Giants defeat perfect season Patriots.

The world saw the second ever undefeated season team, the New England Patriots, in 2008. The only team to ever do this in the past, the 1972 Miami Dolphins, went on to in the big game. The Patriots, who were already seen as the champions walking into the game, were shocked in the fourth quarter. With under two minutes left in the game, Eli Manning completed a 32 yard pass, leading to a touchdown



photo courtesy of Yahoo Sports
David Tyree catches the ball with his head to keep New York's Superbowl hopes alive.

which put the Giants ahead by three with under a minute remaining. Newspapers around the country had pre-printed a victory page dedicated to the perfect season teams. The Giants hold one of the best upsets in NFL history.

Phelps makes history

At the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, thousands of families crowded around television sets to watch Michael Phelps make history. Phelps beat the world record of seven gold metals won by Mark Spitz in 1972. Michael Phelps won eight gold metals in eight events, seven of them setting world records in the individual race. In One particular race, which shocked the world, Phelps defeated Milorad Cavic from Serbia by 1/100 of a second, ensuring his seventh gold metal. He would later go on to announce his participation in the 2012 Olympic games in London.

Curse of the Bambino is broken

In 2004 the Boston Red Sox broke an 86-year curse. The curse started in 1918 when the Red Sox traded Babe Ruth to the Yankees in order for the owner of the Red Sox to fund a theatrical production. From then until this decade, the Boston Red Sox were never able to win a World Series.

This was especially magnified in 2003

when the Red Sox had the yankees on their heels in the 2003 ALCS, but they let the series slip away from them in a dramatic fashion with an Aaron Boone homerun. However, In 2004 the Red Sox came back to beat the Yankees after facing a three game deficit to make it to the World Series. Finally, the Red Sox beat the St. Louis Cardinals in a four game sweep to forever break the curse. Ironically, the Sox went on to win another championship in 2006.



photo courtesy of Yahoo Sports
George Mason celebrates their victory.

George Mason reaches Final Four for the first time

In the 2006 Final Four in Indianapolis, only four people in America, according to ESPN.com predicted that 11TH seed George Mason would reach the quarterfinals. The George Mason Patriots danced past Michigan State, UNC, Wichita State, and top seeded University of Connecticut. Players and fans were both stunned at the college's first Final Four appearance. Although loosing to Florida in the first game of the Final Four, sports annalists see this Cinderella story as one of the best in recent history.

Zidane's head butt against Italy in World Cup

In the 2006 World Cup, the team to beat was Brazil, who was knocked out by France in the quarterfinals. Italy, who knocked out the host country Germany, made it to the finals with ease. The final game was played with a goal scored in the first 20 minutes by Zidane. After regular game time ended, the score was tied 1 – 1. In overtime play Italian footballer Marco Materazzi taunted Zinedine Zidane comparing his mother to a terrorist. Zidane responded with full on head butting the player knocking him to the ground, resulting in a suspension from his final World Cup appearance.

The NFL season closes with the Saints winning their first Super Bowl

by Andrew Feldman

This year's football season was filled with numerous memorable occasions. It began in the off-season with the expected quarterback drama. There was Brett Favre who could not make up his mind about retirement, and then finally chose to sign with his rival of 16 years, the Minnesota Vikings. This situation complemented the goings on in Denver. The disgruntled Jay Cutler was sent off by coach Josh McDaniels to the Chicago Bears where "da Bears" hoped to stay on better terms. Finally, there is the infamous Michael Vick, fresh from jail, who was scooped up by the potentially desperate Philadelphia Eagles.

A team did not need a winning record to make the news. At the end of September, the Detroit Lions, after 19 consecutive losses, finally won a game against the Washington Redskins. The Oakland Raiders might have been the biggest anomaly this season. They only won five games, but some of those include wins against the Philadelphia Eagles, Cincinnati Bengals and Pittsburgh Steelers. After starting 0-6, the resurgent Vince Young led the Titans to a win a way from the playoffs. Young

also received quite a bit of help from his Pro Bowl running back Chris Johnson, who had over 2,500 all-purpose yards and scored 16 touchdowns. In contrast to the Titans' late season run, the Denver Broncos' first six games of perfection ended in a stumble that took them out of the playoffs.

Several shocking occurrences seeped into the season. After winning last year's Super Bowl, the Steelers' failed to reach the playoffs. Terrell Owens, the mouthy wide receiver, was banished to Buffalo where he was finally quiet. The sophomore talent Desean Jackson showed the NFL what an explosive wide receiver could really do with eight touchdowns for more than 50 yards. Tragedy struck as well this season. Eagles legendary defensive coordinator Jim Johnson passed away right before the season started from cancer. Bengals' receiver Chris Henry was killed during a domestic issue in the middle of the season.

Defense was key throughout this season. The New York Giants' lack of defense proved to be their Achilles heel and ultimate undoing. Their division rivals, The Dallas Cowboys, let their defense lead them to their first playoff win in 13 years. In that game they beat the

inconsistent Philadelphia Eagles. Defense was even key in the most offensive game of the year, the first round playoff game between the Green Bay Packers and the Arizona Cardinals. The Cardinals won 51-45 due to an overtime sack and forced fumble that was recovered for a touchdown.

Once again, the Dolphins 1972 perfect season remained elusive to many teams. The Indianapolis Colts had the record in their grasp. Instead of going for it, they rested their starters in the third quarter of week 16 against the Jets. Accordingly, the extra rest did the Colts some good as they beat the Jets the second time around in the AFC championship game. A little extra rest would also help to prepare for the Super Bowl, with questionable starters like Dwight Freeney trying to return from injury.

The New Orleans Saints were the complementing powerhouse in the NFC. The Saints marched their way through the NFC this year with the potent offense led by Drew Brees. They beat the Vikings in the NFC championship game with a bit of déjà vu for Brett Favre. With his last throw in a Packers' uniform, Favre threw an interception in the 2007 NFC championship game to end his team's

chance of a Super Bowl appearance. In this year's championship game, he threw the nail into the coffin as the Vikings were in scoring distance. But at least Favre is not the first quarterback to be in the news for retirement announcements. Kurt Warner announced his retirement after a 12-year career.

The season drew to a close with Super Bowl XLIII down in Miami. Across the nation, families watched as commercials for Doritos, Bud Light and GoDaddy.com flooded the television screen. Even more people tuned in to see what The Who had to offer for halftime entertainment. What these people failed to see was the Colts jumping out to an early 10-0 lead. They also failed to notice the Saints recovering a surprise onside kick at the onset of the second half. It was Drew Brees and the Saints Super Bowl debut. It was Peyton Manning's second, yet it was Manning's late game interception that was detrimental to their success. In quite a different performance, Drew Brees's 32 completions tied a Super Bowl record as well as propelled his team to victory. The Saints had gone the third longest without winning a Super Bowl, but now they are the most recent team to win it all.